

IN THE CLAIMS

- 1 (Currently Amended). A method comprising:
disabling an operation of a wireless device that fails to communicate with a base station over a range limited wireless protocol.
~~receiving a wireless signal from a portable device;~~
~~attempting to authenticate the wireless signal; and~~
~~if the signal is not authenticated, disabling an operation of the device.~~
- 2 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1 including sending ~~wherein receiving a wireless signal from a portable device includes receiving~~ a short-range wireless signal from said wireless device to said base station.
- 3 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 2 wherein sending ~~receiving~~ a short range wireless signal includes sending ~~receiving~~ a Bluetooth protocol signal.
- 4 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein preventing operation of the device includes preventing access to a supply of power.
- 5 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1 including sending ~~receiving~~ a wireless signal from said wireless device to ~~at~~ a key fob.
- Claim 6 (Canceled).
- 7 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1 including preventing operation of the device if the signal is not authenticated by said base station.
- 8 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1 including adversely affecting the performance of the device if the signal is not authenticated by said base station.

9 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1 including limiting access to storage if the signal is not authenticated by said base station.

10 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1 including preventing the device from booting if the signal is not authenticated by said base station.

11 (Currently Amended). A portable wireless device ~~wireless system~~ comprising:
a processor;
a wireless ~~transceiver~~ receiver; and
a storage coupled to said processor, said storage storing instructions that enable the processor to ~~authenticate a received wireless signals, and, if the signal is not authenticated, disable an operation of the device~~ disable an operation of a wireless device that fails to communicate with a base station over a range limited wireless protocol.

12 (Currently Amended). The device ~~system~~ of claim 11 wherein said receiver ~~transceiver~~ receives a short-range wireless signal.

13 (Currently Amended). The device ~~system~~ of claim 12 wherein said receiver ~~transceiver~~ is a Bluetooth protocol transceiver.

14 (Currently Amended). The device ~~system~~ of claim 11 wherein said processor to prevent ~~prevents~~ operation of the device by preventing access to a supply of power.

15 (Currently Amended). The device ~~system~~ of claim 11 wherein said device ~~system~~ is in the form of a key fob.

16 (Currently Amended). The device ~~system~~ of claim 11 to prevent ~~wherein said system prevents~~ operation of the device if the device sending a wireless signal ~~signal~~ is not authenticated.

17 (Currently Amended). The device system of claim 11 wherein said device system adversely affects the performance of the device if the signal is not authenticated.

18 (Currently Amended). The device system of claim 11 wherein said device system limits access to storage if the signal is not authenticated.

19 (Currently Amended). The device system of claim 11 wherein said device system prevents the device from booting if the signal is not authenticated.

20 (Currently Amended). An article comprising a medium storing instructions that enable a processor-based system to:

send ~~receive~~ a wireless signal from a portable device to a base station; and
~~attempt to authenticate the wireless signal; and~~
disable an operation of the device ~~if the signal is not authenticated~~ that fails to
communicate with a base station over a range limited wireless protocol.

21 (Original). The article of claim 20 further storing instructions that enable the processor-based system to receive a short-range wireless signal.

22 (Original). The article of claim 21 further storing instructions that enable the processor-based system to receive a Bluetooth protocol signal.

23 (Original). The article of claim 20 further storing instructions that enable the processor-based system to prevent access to a supply of power.

24 (Original). The article of claim 20 further storing instructions that enable the processor-based system to receive a wireless signal at a key fob.

25 (Original). The article of claim 20 further storing instructions that enable the processor-based system to receive a wireless signal at a concealed location.

26 (Original). An article of claim 20 further storing instructions that enable the processor-based system to prevent operation of the device if the signal is not authenticated.

27 (Original). An article of claim 20 further storing instructions that enable the processor-based system to adversely affect the performance of the device if the signal is not authenticated.

28 (Original). An article of claim 20 further storing instructions that enable the processor-based system to limit access to storage if the signal is not authenticated.

29 (Original). An article of claim 20 further storing instructions that enable the processor-based system to prevent the device from booting if the signal is not authenticated.